

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 1989 AT 10:00 A.M.
IN BC-110, SGW CAMPUS

ATTENDANCE: Present were:

C.H. Langford (Chair), V. Baba, P. Fazio, D. Gold,
B. Jenkins, M. Kusy, R.H. Pallen, E. Reyes,
C.Y. Suen, M.N.S. Swamy, A.J. Williams, S. Bulzan
(Secretary)

Absent with regrets:

G. Johns, B. MacKay, R. Rudin

Absent:

K. Lipke, A. Mohammad

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED & DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

SRC-88-01-21-D36, (revised)	GUIDELINES FOR SENATE EVALUATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES
SRC-88-12-01-D59, (revised)	AN EXPLORATION OF THE FACTORS LIMITING GROWTH OF RESEARCH FUNDING AT CONCORDIA
SRC-89-02-02-D64	MEMO TO C.H. LANGFORD FROM JOHN NOONAN RE: MEMBERSHIP OF DIRECTORS OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES ON SENATE AND THE SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
SRC-89-02-02-D65	PAMPHLETS 'LES ENJEUX ACTUELS DES POLITIQUES SCIENTIFIQUES ET TECHNOLOGIQUES'

Dr. C.H. Langford occupied the Chair.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1.1 It was moved and seconded (Kusy, Baba) and unanimously
RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Senate Research Committee meeting
of 5 January 1989 be approved.

II. CHAIR'S REMARKS

A. Les Enjeux Actuels des Politiques Scientifiques et
Technologiques (SRC-89-02-02-D65)

- 2.1 Pamphlets entitled 'Les Enjeux Actuels des Politiques
Scientifiques et Technologiques' were distributed to the
Committee for their information.

B. NSERC Strategic Grants

- 2.1 The Chair stated that the Targeted Research Committee at
NSERC had reorganized their program under more general
headings and that mission statements are being developed.

C. Letter to SSHRC President Paule Leduc

- 2.1 The Chair reported that a letter of invitation had been
written to Ms. Leduc, President of SSHRC, as was decided
at the last SRC meeting.

D. La Fondation Québécoise en Environnement

- 2.1 The Chair described the composition of the 'Fondation
Québécoise en Environnement' and stated that it consists
primarily of university members and private sector
representatives.
- 2.2 The Chair stated that the immediate project of the
'Fondation', which was discussed at a meeting held 31
January 1989, is to gather a list of research projects in
environmental studies. The list of Concordia's projects,
together with funding levels, will need to be presented
to the 'Fondation Québécoise' by 17 February 1989, and
will be put together by Concordia's Environmental
Committee.

2.3 The Chair read the membership of the Environmental Committee and asked that the Senate Research Committee formally agree to the existence of this group giving them a mandate to represent the University in matters such as the request from the 'Fondation Québécoise'. It was also suggested that the Faculty of Commerce and Administration should be represented on this Committee. Dr. Kusy will look into this matter.

2.4 The Chair asked for a motion to proceed. It was moved and seconded (Pallen, Kusy) and unanimously APPROVED:

That the Senate Research Committee recognize the existence of the Environmental Sub-Committee.

E. Director of Research Services - A.J. Williams

2.1 Ms. Williams stated that four to five FCAR 'Special Projects' were submitted weekly.

2.2 It was reported that the faculty profiles are proceeding satisfactorily and that the Faculty of Commerce and Administration profiles have just begun.

2.3 The Director of Research Services informed the Committee that the booklet on research funding, which lists all sources of research project funding, is ready for printing. It will be used primarily for external purposes.

F. Hydro-Québec Funds

2.1 Dr. Pallen inquired whether Dr. Giguère had responded to the Chair's request for information on possible uses of the Hydro-Québec funds and the special MESS Capital Fund for scientific equipment.

2.2 The Chair responded that he had not yet received an answer from the Vice-Rector, Services, but indicated that the Deans had met with Dr. Giguère recently to provide suggestions for possible use of this money.

2.3 Dr. Pallen referred to an article that appeared in the Montreal Gazette indicating how people have become less interested in supercomputers.

III. SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH CENTRES

A. Report on Centre Directors Meeting

- 3.1 The Chair reported that general issues related to the Centres Questionnaire were discussed at the Centre Directors meeting of 19 January 1989. The question of what can specifically be accomplished through Senate and the Senate Research Committee was also addressed.
- 3.2 It was reported that the Committee of Centre Directors felt that it would like to be represented on such University bodies as Senate's Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and the Vice-Rector's Budget Advisory Committee.
- 3.3 The Chair stated that he will draft a specific document on this subject for the next SRC meeting.

B. Membership of Directors of University Research Centres on Senate and the Senate Research Committee (SRC-88-02-02-D64)

- 3.1 The Chair referred to the memo from the Secretary of Senate, John Noonan, regarding membership of Directors of University Research Centres on Senate and the Senate Research Committee.
- 3.2 The Chair asked Dr. Kusy, a member of Senate's Steering Committee, to speak to the Committee about this issue.
- 3.3 Dr. Kusy reported the reasons for Senate not considering the motions presented. Having a Centre Director represented on Senate would have an impact on the Senate's composition, and it would also set a precedent for other groups. As far as the Senate Research Committee is concerned, it is free to select up to two of its own members and therefore does not need Senate approval.
- 3.4 The Chair indicated that having a Centre Director sit on Senate was no longer an issue since the initiative was rejected. The Chair asked the Committee whether they were satisfied with having the option to deal with the SRC representation, or whether they wanted formal definition and documentation from Senate.

- 3.5 The Committee voted in favour to formalize the question of having a Centre Director on the Senate Research Committee. The following motion will be submitted to Senate:

"Moved that concrete efforts will be made to ensure that membership of the Senate Research Committee include at least one Director of a University Research Centre."

C. Guidelines for Senate Evaluation of University Research Centres (SRC-88-01-21-D36, revised)

- 3.1 The Chair stated that the document had received only minor editorial changes following comments from the Centre Directors and the Senate Research Committee.
- 3.2 A lengthy discussion took place in which Dr. Fazio requested that another sentence be added to the end of page two under 'Purpose' to read as follows: "and that Senate establish a process to foster these Centres".
- 3.3 A suggestion was made to include this statement in a covering memo instead of incorporating it in the document.
- 3.4 A motion was moved and seconded (Kusy, Pallen) to forward the guidelines to Senate with an attached memorandum. The Committee voted as follows:

6 in favour. 0 opposed. 2 abstentions.

Motion carried.

IV. STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH FUNDING (SRC-88-12-01-D59, revised)

- 4.1 The Chair reported that the document had been edited incorporating comments made at the last SRC meeting.
- 4.2 The Chair indicated that this document is not an action document, but is for information purposes. The document to be forwarded to Senate deals with the problems; the next step will be to find ways to solve these problems.
- 4.3 The Chair asked the Committee to provide editorial comments by Monday, 13 February 1989.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.